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## **Memphis and New Orleans Performance and Workshop Trip**

**Day 1:** Suggested departure from WI School at 6:30pm driving straight through to Memphis  
(~737 miles, ~14 1/2 hrs)

Mandatory rest breaks and food stops along the way

**Day 2:** Breakfast on own en route

Arrive in Memphis at 9:00am; meet local A.T.S. Tour Director at Graceland

### **Visit Graceland**

A trip to Graceland will offer an opportunity to learn about music, Memphis history, the life of Elvis Presley and more. Students will go on a one of a kind journey through Elvis' humble beginnings and rise to superstardom with up close and personal looks at the influence that forever changed music. They can explore the life of the king of rock 'n' roll through videos, photos, personal mementos, artifacts, movie memorabilia, stage costumes and more.

Performance opportunity available for both, your band and chorus, during your visit to Graceland

### **National Civil Rights Museum at the Lorraine Motel**

The National Civil Rights Museum, located at the Lorraine Motel, the assassination site of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., chronicles key episodes of the American civil rights movement and the legacy of this movement to inspire participation in civil and human rights efforts globally, through our collections, exhibitions, and educational programs.

Hotel check-in to freshen up prior to your late afternoon and evening activities

### **Free time to explore Beale Street**

Beale Street was built on memories – good and bad. Beale Street's heyday was in the roaring 20's, when it took on a carnival atmosphere. The booming nightclubs, theaters, restaurants, stores, pawnshops and hot music thrived alongside gambling, drinking, prostitution, murder and voodoo. In the early evenings, boxback suits and Stetson hats mingled with overalls. Young ladies sashayed down Beale Street and inside the bars, gamblers waited for an easy mark to stroll in. If the mark escaped from the dice or the cards, maybe he would fall victim to Little Ora – always ready to prove her reputation as the best pickpocket between New Orleans and St. Louis. Maybe he'd just stop over at PeeWee's and visit with the musicians, play a little pool, or secure the voodoo protection of Mary the Wonder. By mid-evening, the street would be packed. A one block walk could mean a detour around the medicine show set up in a little hole in the wall, as much as stopping and listening to the wandering bluesmen playing for pennies and nickels.

One club, The Monarch, was known as The Castle of Missing Men due to the fact that gunshot victims and dead gamblers could be easily disposed of at the undertaker sharing their back alley. Machine Gun Kelly peddled bottled whiskey from a clothes basket back before moving into the ranks of big-time crime. Numerous gamblers set a box next to the card table and slid a share of the take into it for the church down the street.

There were big vaudeville shows at the Palace and the Daisy, hot snoot sandwiches at the corner café, Memphis jug bands playing down at the park, and one block over on Gayoso, the red-light district rivaled New Orleans' Storyville.

### **Dinner at BB King's Restaurant and Blues Club**

There is nothing better than a full stomach to enjoy great music. Our menu offers a variety of great cuisine fused with that southern comfort touch. Steaks, fresh seafood, mouth watering bar-b-q, pasta and plenty of appetizers all come together to create the perfect combination of delicious food, energetic music, cold drinks and a great time all packed into one building. B.B. King's Blues Club, "It's Good For Your Soul."

Come sit with us for a while and enjoy B.B. King's favorite dishes as you listen to the best of Memphis music! Then get ready to get up and dance the night away to the great live music we present to you every night on world-famous Beale Street. B.B. King's features such Memphis music stars as Will Tucker, Preston Shannon, The BB King All-Stars and many more!

Return to group hotel following dinner

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2:

**Day 3: Breakfast at the hotel; hotel checkout**

**Continue on your trip to New Orleans this morning** (~400 miles, ~8 hrs)

**Lunch on own en route**

**Arrive in New Orleans around 4:00pm; hotel check-in to freshen up for the evening**

**Band performance at the Toulouse Street Wharf prior to the dinner cruise**

Toulouse Street Wharf. is a United States port facility serving the Mississippi River waterway. The facility specializes in the mooring excursion vessel Natchez; boarding and discharge of passengers. It has a berthing distance of 280 meters, which is 20% shorter than the average for all port facilities, wharfs and docks.

**Dinner jazz cruise, featuring the grammy nominated "Dukes of Dixieland" jazz band, onboard the Steamboat Natchez**

"She's the ninth steamer to bear the name NATCHEZ. It was her predecessor, NATCHEZ VI, that raced the ROBERT E. LEE in the most famous steamboat race of all time. Even today, the NATCHEZ is proudly the undisputed champion of the Mississippi, never having been beaten in a race. In many ways, she's the best of her line.

It's a line that follows the course of river history, from the placid antebellum plantation era through the turbulence of the Civil War to the Gay Nineties, and, ultimately, the new millenium.

When the New Orleans Steamboat Company launched the NATCHEZ in 1975, they revived more than a famous name. They created one of only two true steam powered sternwheelers plying the Mississippi today. The NATCHEZ combines the best of contemporary construction, safety, and comfort standards with all the authenticity and style of her classic steamboat gothic predecessors.

The NATCHEZ resembles the old sternwheelers VIRGINIA and HUDSON in her profile and layout. Her powerful steam engines were built for U.S. Steel Corporation's sternwheeler CLAIRTON in 1925. Her genuine copper and steel steam whistle is a treasured antique. Her copper bell, smelted from 250 silver dollars to produce a purer tone, once graced the S.S. J.D. AYRES. Her 32 note steam calliope was custom crafted and modeled after the music makers of the Gilded Age.

The NATCHEZ is the pride of the Mississippi River and is as beautiful as any of her namesakes. Many of her crew have been with her since her maiden voyage. Theirs is a whole new chapter in history of the river, and you are now going to be a part of it.

True to tradition in every detail, boarding the NATCHEZ makes you feel as if you have entered another era. The captain barks his orders through an old-time hand-held megaphone. The calliope trills a melody into the air while the great wheel, 25 tons of white oak, churns the heavy waters of the Mississippi. You soon find yourself slipping into a sense of the old, vast and timeless river.

As the NATCHEZ glides past the French Quarter and through one of the world's most active ports, you begin to understand the magic of the experience. For all its history and romance, the excitement of riding a steamboat is as real and rich and genuine now as it was a century ago."

**Haunted history tour of New Orleans this evening**

Mildly theatrical, hugely historical, chilling, and thoroughly entertaining.....SPELLBOUND!

**Return to the group hotel following the tour**

**Day 4: Breakfast at the hotel**

**Attend a church service at the St. Louis Cathedral**

The St. Louis Cathedral is one of New Orleans' most notable landmarks. This venerable building, its triple steeples towering above its historic neighbors, the Cabildo and the Presbytere - looks down benignly on the green of the Square and General Andrew Jackson on his bronze horse and on the block-long Pontalba Buildings with their lacy ironwork galleries. Truly, this is the heart of old New Orleans.

**Walking tour of the Vieux Carré (French Quarter)**

The French Quarter, also known as the Vieux Carré, is the oldest neighborhood in the city of New Orleans. When New Orleans (*La Nouvelle-Orléans* in French) was founded in 1718 by Jean-Baptiste Le Moyne de Bienville, the city was originally centered on the French Quarter, or the *Vieux Carré* ("Old Square" in French) as it was known then. While the area is still referred to as the *Vieux Carré* by some, it is more commonly known as the French Quarter today, or simply "The Quarter."<sup>[1]</sup> Although called the "French" Quarter, most of the present day buildings were built under Spanish rule and show Spanish colonial tastes. The district as a whole is a National Historic Landmark, and contains numerous individual historic buildings.

**Continue your tour via motorcoach visiting the Garden District and local cemeteries**

**Conclude your tour with a visit to the French Quarter Market**

The French Market District encompasses six blocks on the riverside of the Lower French Quarter. The district includes over 20 unique retail shops, performance venues, restaurants, cafes, a flea market and a farmers market. In addition to the recreational shopping opportunities and ongoing free special events, the District boasts historical monuments such as Washington Artillery Park (across from Jackson Square) and New Place de France (home of the Joan of Arc statue), public art, and scenic walkways. The New Orleans Jazz National Historic Park, located in Dutch Alley, offers free educational and musical presentations Tuesday-Saturday. The French Market, "America's Oldest Public Market", has existed on the same site since 1791. What began as a Native American trading post has become a cultural and entertainment destination that hosts annual festivals and events.

**Day 4: (continued)**

Choral performance at a local church or cathedral, a historical venue, or the National World War II Museum (as available during your visit)

Dinner at Michaul's Live Cajun Music Restaurant & Le Bon Temps Music Hall (or something similar if not available)

Enjoy great family fun and food, CAJUN STYLE at Michaul's. Most fun on 2 feet!

Return to the group hotel following dinner

**Day 5: Breakfast at the hotel; hotel checkout**

**Swamp Tour**

Explore Louisiana's back country along its meandering bayous abundant with wildlife and exotic plant life. Trained navigators escort you into the murky waters of Louisiana swamps where you will come face to face with the beauty and beasts of nature.

**Mardi Gras World tour (see how Mardi Gras is made!)**

The largest float designing and building facility in the world. Here more than 80 percent of the floats that journey down New Orleans' streets during the Carnival season are designed and built.

Begun in 1947 by float designer and builder Blaine Kern, Mardi Gras World provides visitors with the opportunity to don authentic Mardi Gras costumes and tour enormous warehouses filled with floats. The tour includes a short video and guide who is quite knowledgeable about Mardi Gras history and customs. And for a taste of Mardi Gras, king cake and piping hot New Orleans coffee are served.

During the tour, visitors learn about the many traditions surrounding Mardi Gras parades, balls and music, as well as the intricacies of float designing and building. Mardi Gras floats began rumbling down New Orleans streets in 1837 with mule-drawn carriages. Today the tradition continues with sophisticated mega-floats, which hold more than 200 masked riders and are lit with fiber optic cables and laser lights.

**Workshop/clinic at one of the local colleges or universities this afternoon**

**Dinner at the House of Blues**

Established in 1994, House of Blues New Orleans is nestled in the historic French Quarter and is the city's premier live music, restaurant and special events venue. The 175 seat restaurant houses a renowned folk art collection by self taught artists from the Delta region and features the finest southern cuisine. This is the place where music, food, art and southern hospitality are blended together for a unique experience like no other.

Depart New Orleans driving straight through to Kewaunee (~1,130 miles, ~22 hrs)

Mandatory stops and meal breaks along the way home

**Day 6: Meals on own en route**

Anticipated arrival at school around 5:00pm

Collect luggage, instruments, souvenirs, etc., and return home